Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A tablet having a hardness of 6 KP or more which comprises:

a. particles of a phosphate-binding polymer having an average particle size of no more than 400 microns, with at least 90% of the particles being occupied by particles no larger than 500 microns, and having a true specific gravity of 1.20-1.22 and a water content of 1-14%; and

b. at least one of crystalline cellulose or low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose; wherein the crystalline cellulose or low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose or mixture thereof is present in an amount of at least 10% of the weight of the phosphate-binding polymer..

32. (Previously Presented) The tablet according to claim 31 wherein said particles of a phosphate-binding polymer have an average particle size of no more than 250 microns,

with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 300 microns.

Claim 33 - 34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Presented) The tablet according to claim 31 wherein the low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose has 5.0-16.0 wt% substitution by hydroxypropyl groups.

36. (Previously Presented) The tablet according to any of claims 31-32 and 35 wherein the phosphate-binding polymer particles are obtained by allowing epichlorohydrin to act on polyallylamine in a water/acetonitrile mixed solvent system so that the polyallylamine is crosslinked.

37. (Previously Presented) The tablet according to claim 31 wherein further contains a hardened oil.

38. (Previously Presented) The tablet according to claim 31 which is coated on the surface with a water-soluble film base.

39. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a phosphate-binding polymer tablet having a hardness of 6 KP or more which comprises:

a. grinding a phosphate-binding polymer having a true specific gravity of 1.20-1.22 into particles having an average particle size of no

more than 400 microns, with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 500 microns, said phosphate-binding polymer being either polyallylamine or obtained by crosslinking the same;

b. ~~Adjusting~~adjusting the phosphate-binding polymer particles to have a water content of 1-14%;

c. ~~Mixing~~mixing the particles with at least one of crystalline cellulose or low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose, wherein the amount of microcrystalline cellulose or low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose is at least 10% of the weight of the phosphate-binding polymer; and

d. ~~Compressing~~compressing the mixture into tablets.

40. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 39 wherein said phosphate-binding polymer is ground into particles having an average particle size of no more than 250 microns, with at least 90% being occupied by particles no larger than 300 microns.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 40 wherein the polymer particles have an average particle size of no more than 400 microns, with at least 90% of the particles no larger than 500 microns, and with a water content of 1-14%.

43. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 40 wherein the polymer particles have an average particle size of no more than 250 microns, with at least 90% of the particles no larger than 300 microns.

44. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 40 which further contains a component selected from the group consisting of crystalline cellulose, low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose, and mixtures thereof.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 44 wherein the low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose has 5.0-16.0 weight % substitution by hydroxy groups.

47. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 40 wherein the tablet further contains a hardened oil.

48. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 40 wherein the tablet is coated with a water-soluble film base.

49. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 40 wherein the phosphate-binding polymer particles are obtained by allowing epichlorohydrin to act on polyallylamine in a water/acetonitrile mixed solvent system so that the polyallylamine is crosslinked.

Claims 50 - 52. (Cancelled)

53. (Previously Presented) A method for treating hyperphosphatemia comprising administering a tablet according to claim 31 to a patient in need thereof.

54. (Previously Presented) The tablet according to claim 31, wherein the hardness of the tablet is measured with a tablet hardness tester.

55. (Previously Presented) The tablet according to claim 31, wherein said tablet has a weight loss of 1% or less in a friability test.

56. (Previously Presented) The tablet according to claim 55, wherein the weight loss of said tablet is measured by a friability tester by being revolved 100 times.

57. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 39, wherein the hardness of the tablet is measured with a tablet hardness tester.

58. (Previously Presented) The tablet according to claim 39 wherein said table has a weight loss of 1% or less in a friability test.

59. (Previously Presented) The tablet according to claim 58 wherein the weight loss of said tablet is measured by a friability tester by being revolved 100 times.